

REMARKS

Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the present application.

Applicants would like to extend their sincere thanks to Examiners Le and Alam for conducting the interview on May 21, 2002. Pursuant to the Interview, applicants have amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66. Accordingly, a Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the amended claims is enclosed.

As agreed by the Examiners in the Interview, claim 30, with no amendment thereto, and amended claims 22 and 41, including the added limitations proposed in the interview, would overcome the outstanding rejection based on Brennan. Claim 55 is a method claim closely tracking system claim 30. Amended claims 47 and 66 include limitations similar to those of amended claims 22 and 41, respectively. As such, claims 30 and 55, and amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 22-71, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

By 

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Enclosure



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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

22. (Twice Amended) A system for maintaining a data source for use in directory assistance comprising:

an interface for receiving signals in establishing a communication connection, [with an initiator of] the communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data elements in the data source which are associated with the initiator being [identified] located based on an identifier [representative of the initiator] in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

a receiver for receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning a selected one of the data elements through the established communication connection, the action being associated with an access right requirement;

a processor for identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element; and

a device for taking the action when the access right of the initiator meets the access right requirement.

41. (Amended) A system for providing a communications service using a database comprising:

an interface for receiving from a user a request for communicating with a desired party;

a first device for searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;

a second device for [initiating a] establishing the communications connection

based on the contact information [between the user and the desired party];

a processor for identifying an access right of the user [concerning the contact information]; and

a controller for allowing disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user satisfies the access right requirement.

47. (Twice Amended) A method for maintaining a data source for use in directory assistance comprising:

receiving signals in establishing a communication connection, [with an initiator of] the communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data elements in the data source which are associated with the initiator being [identified] located based on an identifier [representative of the initiator] in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning a selected one of the data elements through the established communication connection, the action being associated with an access right requirement;

identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element;
and

taking the action when the access right of the initiator meets the access right requirement.

66. (Amended) A method for providing a communications service using a database comprising:

receiving from a user a request for communicating with a desired party;

searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact

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information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;

[initiating a] establishing the communications connection based on the contact information [between the user and the desired party];

identifying an access right of the user [concerning the contact information]; and

allowing disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user satisfies the access right requirement.